

IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider amendment to claims 6, 11, and 16 as follows:

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for entering a service request as an XML message for processing in a legacy format not compatible with said XML message comprising:
- a. A user terminal which generates a said service request containing a plurality of request parameters as an XML message using one of a plurality of formats;
 - b. an intermediate server having an adapter which converts said service request to an intermediate format responsively coupled via a publicly accessible digital data communication network responsively coupled to said user terminal;
 - c. A middleware generic gateway within a generic server responsively coupled to said publicly available digital data communication network intermediate server which converts said service request from said intermediate format to said legacy format not compatible with said XML message;
 - d. a request buffer created by said middleware generic gateway from said plurality of request parameters; and
 - e. A legacy enterprise server responsively coupled to said generic server which receives said service request in said legacy format.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a transaction comprising:

- a. Composing a service request within a user terminal as an XML message using one of a plurality of formats;
- b. Transferring said XML message from said user terminal via a publicly accessible digital data communication network to one of a plurality of adapters corresponding to said one of said plurality of formats within a server;
- c. Converting said XML message into a standardized format for processing within a generic gateway within said server; and
- d. transferring said XML message converted into said standard format to said generic gateway which converts said service request from said standardized format into a legacy format not compatible with said XML message;
- e. packing said converted service request converted into said legacy format into a request buffer compatible with a legacy data base management system by said generic gateway; and
- f. transferring said request buffer from said generic gateway to said legacy data base management system to be honored.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

- a. generating means for generating an XML message within a user terminal containing a service request and a plurality of request parameters using one of a plurality of message formats;
- b. transferring means responsively coupled to said generating means for transferring said XML message via a publicly accessible digital data network;
- c. adapting means responsively coupled to said publicly accessible digital data network for adapting said XML message to a standardized intermediate format using one of a plurality of adapters including creating a request parameter buffer and an input buffer from said plurality of request parameters; [[and]]
- d. converting means responsively coupled to said adapting means which utilizes a gateway to convert said service request from said intermediate format into a legacy format which is not compatible with said XML message; and
- e. processing means responsively coupled to said adapting converting means for processing said service request in said legacy format received from said [[via a]] generic gateway including said request buffer containing said plurality of request parameters.